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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,338	03/23/2001	Shinichiro Abe	041514-5115	4416

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MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

PATEL, GAUTAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/815,338

Applicant(s)

ABE ET AL.

Examiner

Gautam R. Patel

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 are pending for the examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings/Objection

3. The drawings are objected for following reasons:

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). The drawings must show *every feature* of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, "a judging device" must be shown or the feature canceled from the claim. **No new matter should be entered.**

This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when and if the application is allowed.

Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in response to this Office Action. Any proposal by the applicant for amendment of the drawings to cure defects must consist of **two parts**:

A separate letter to the Draftsman in accordance with MPEP § 608.02 (r); and,
A print or pen-and-ink sketch showing changes in **red ink** in accordance with MPEP § 608.02 (v).

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IMPORTANT NOTE: The filing of new formal drawings to correct the noted defect may be deferred until the application is allowed by the examiner, but the print or pen-and-ink sketch with proposed corrections shown in *red ink* is required in response to this Office Action, and may not be deferred, or explanation and/or changes are required.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected for following reasons.

The title of the invention is neither precise nor descriptive. A new title is required which should include, using twenty words or fewer, claimed features that differentiate the invention from the Prior Art. It is recommended that the title should reflect the gist of or the improvement of the present invention.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima et al., US. patent 5,963,521 (hereafter Nagashima).

As to claim 1, Nagashima, discloses the invention as claimed [see Figs. 1-7, especially 1] including a reading device, a memory controller and a judging device, comprising:

a reading device [fig. 1, unit 3 or 33] for reading compressed information recorded on said recording medium [fig. 1, unit 2 or 32] [col. 3, lines 34-56 and col. 4, lines 3-20];

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a memory controller [fig. 1, unit 7 and 15] for writing the compressed information read by said reading device into a memory, reading the compressed information written in said memory in the order of writing and supplying the read information to said expander [fig. 1, unit 43] [col. 3, lines 34-56 and col. 4, lines 23-45]; and

a judging device [inherently present within the controller since modes are changed, such as B mode or C mode] for determining which of the plurality of compression methods is used in compressing the information read by said reading device, wherein said memory controller controls the timing of starting to read the compressed information from said memory in accordance with a determination by the judging device [col. 5, lines 3-23 and col 8, lines 39-57].

6. As to claim 2, Nagashima discloses:

said memory controller starts reading of the compressed information from said memory at a faster timing when said reading device has started to read the compressed information from said recording medium, when said judging device determines that the information is compressed at a compression rate higher [75 sectors/second v/s 18.75 sectors/second] than another compression rate [18.75 sectors/second] [col. 6, lines 13-47].

7. As to claim 3, Nagashima discloses:

timing of starting to read is set so that a time required to output the reproduced information for the compressed information stored in said memory from the start of reading the compressed information from said recording medium by the reading device till the start of reading the compressed information from said memory is substantially the same for the information compressed by any of the plurality of compression methods [col. 5, lines 24-37].

8. As to claim 4, Nagashima discloses:

a reading device [fig. 1, unit 3 or 33] for reading compressed information recorded on said recording medium [fig. 1, unit 2 or 32] [col. 3, lines 34-56 and col. 4, lines 3-20];

a memory controller [fig. 1, unit 7 and 15] for writing the compressed information read by said reading device in a memory, reading the compressed information written in said memory in the order of writing and supplying the compressed information to said expander [fig. 1, unit 43] [col. 3, lines 34-56 and col. 4, lines 23-45];

a judging device [inherently present within the controller since modes are changed, such as B mode or C mode] for determining which of the plurality of compression methods is used in compressing the information read by said reading device [col. 5, lines 3-23 and col 8, lines 39-57]; and

a reading controller [inherently present in the controller] for controlling a reading time of said reading device in accordance with a determination of the judging device [col. 5, lines 24-62].

9. As to claim 5, Nagashima discloses:

said reading controller controls the reading time of said reading device to be decreased when said judging device determines that the information is compressed at a compression rate higher than another compression rate [col. 6, lines 13-47].

Other prior art cited

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Maeda et al. (US. patent 5,224,087) "Apparatus for recording compressed digital information ..".

2. Tsurushima et al. (US. patent 5,244,705) "Disc-shaped recording medium ..".

3. Aotake (US. patent 6,411,771) "Picture processing apparatus ..".

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- a. Tsutsui (US. patent 6,081,784) "Methods and apparatus for encoding ..".
- 4. Okamoto et al. (US. patent 5,878,010) "Method and apparatus for recording digital signal".
- 5. Matsumoto et al. (US. patent 6,408,332) "Recording and reproducing apparatus ..".
- 6. Nakazato et al. (US. patent 5,771,340) "Data compression method ..".
- 7. Suzuki et al. (US. patent 5,819,214) "Length of a processing block ..".
- 8. Katsuki et al. (US. patent 6,259,859) "Recording apparatus ..".
- 9. Kihara et al. (US. patent 6,212,097) "Nonvolatile memory".

Contact information

- 11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam R. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-7940. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 6.

The appropriate fax number for the organization (Group 2650) where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To can be reached on (703) 305-4827.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700 or the group Customer Service section whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Gautam R. Patel
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2655

August 4, 2003